



Comfort, Love & Charity

2005 - 2006 Annual Report



CATHOLIC CHARITIES

providing help. creating hope

Diocese of Baton Rouge

2005-2006

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New Name . . . Same Mission

Before publishing this annual report, the Catholic Community Services Board of Directors took a bold move and voted to change the name of our organization to "Catholic Charities."

In his first papal encyclical letter *Deus Caritas Est*, Pope Benedict XVI cites: "*The Church's deepest nature is expressed in her three-fold responsibility: of proclaiming the word of God, celebrating the sacraments, and exercising the ministry of charity.*"

Doing charitable work under the banner name "Catholic Charities" enables name-recognition among the Catholic community, among non-profit and faith-based agencies working in our Diocese, but more importantly, it is more readily recognized among those seeking help. The name "Catholic Charities" is well-known and readily recognized nationally and internationally.

Whether Catholic Social Services, Catholic Community Services or Catholic Charities, the mission remains the same as it has for the past 43 years . . . *providing help . . . creating hope.*

Mission Statement

Catholic Charities of Baton Rouge, Inc. proclaims the gospel vision of Jesus Christ as our mission by serving the needs of individuals and families, especially the poorest, and working with Church and Community for justice, peace and compassion in society.



for printing this annual report.



My dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

St. Paul in I Corinthians 13 offers rich symbolism in support of our work at Catholic Charities as we continue to recover from the devastation wrought by the 2005 hurricanes. St. Paul reminds us: "So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love (charity)." The staff, volunteers and other supporters serve God as those seeking help are the clearest reflection of God in our midst.

The hurricanes took lives, property, livelihoods, and security from so many. Only through love, comfort, and charity can the wounds of this natural disaster be healed. Those who work with and support the efforts of Catholic Charities to provide corporal and spiritual relief to those in need are fulfilling the directive of our Heavenly Father. Surely God has been with us in a special way since the 2005 hurricanes and will not abandon His suffering people; the work of Catholic Charities bears witness to His mercies every day.

+ Robert W. Muench

+Robert W. Muench
Bishop of Baton Rouge

Deborah Roe

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



How can we ever begin to sufficiently thank all those who make our ministries possible? Our staff, which has doubled in number, is often characterized by associates as committed, compassionate, dedicated and tireless. Our volunteers bring renewed enthusiasm, critical resources, and one-by-one demonstrates the real value of the age-old virtue love thy neighbor. The Diocese of Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge Area Foundation, Capital Area United Way, Catholic Charities USA, Louisiana Family Recovery Corps and many others affirm our mission and nourish us organizationally.

Our recent work gives witness to the belief that God does not always call the prepared, but God prepares those whom He calls. As the most impacted Diocese per capita by evacuation of South Louisiana, our Diocese has been called to a level of recovery work some have labeled “heroic.” For Catholic Charities, it’s not heroic, but simply responding to the “call” and believing that the same Holy Spirit that guided the work of the Apostles will guide our work today.

In addition to mounting the largest Catholic Charities recovery effort in our history, we also have placed more children in adoptive homes than ever; integrated the service of an immigration attorney; opened a satellite office location close to downtown Baton Rouge; laid the foundation for generating low-income housing; and continued our weekly television show, Faith in Action.

The list of accomplishments can go on—but what really matters is the healing, the change, the hope and the help brought to over 185,000 people last year. We are committed to assuring that any new competencies or new resources we develop to help storm survivors will inure to the benefit of all clients. We are learning new ways to strengthen and lift families out of poverty.

We invite all to join in our mission. Your help, your prayers and your generosity sustains us and brings forth renewed help and hope in our changing world.

MADELINE'S JOURNEY

Comfort

Four months after Hurricane Katrina, a Catholic Charities caseworker found Madeline huddled in the lobby, sobbing. Madeline recounted how Hurricane Katrina had wiped out her life—she lost her home, rental property, cars, job at UNO.

Just two months prior to this encounter, Madeline saw the extraordinary demand on the agency and volunteered for a couple of weeks. Then things got worse . . .

First, Madeline's husband dropped dead of a heart attack. In the next few weeks, her mother, brother-in-law and nephew all died unexpectedly.

The grief was almost too much for Madeline to bear. Madeline enrolled in our disaster mental health program where she began receiving weekly counseling sessions to help her with her grief and post traumatic stress. Madeline gradually began feeling better.

"It was hard for me to ask for help, but I'm glad I did," a grateful Madeline said.

Today, Madeline's bad days still outnumber her good days, but she's working hard to reclaim her sense of hope and achieve full recovery, supported by our services and prayers. Her ongoing counseling and the work she is doing to restore her New Orleans home, to which she hopes to return, sustain her determination.

"Thank God Catholic Charities opened their arms to me," she said. *"You are my angels."*

People like Madeline give us hope and inspiration to continue our work.





Sarah is an 28-year-old, intelligent woman bedridden with debilitating cerebral palsy who was adopted at birth. Sarah became pregnant. Against medical advice and acutely aware her birth mother had tried to abort her, she was determined to carry her baby to term despite the danger to her own health. She contacted Catholic Charities for guidance.

Counseling, Maternity & Adoption caseworkers Samantha and Beth began counseling Sarah as she struggled with whether to make an adoption plan for her unborn baby or somehow parent her child. Samantha and Beth supported Sarah no matter her decision.

After many prayerful days, she chose Matt and Christen to raise her unborn child as their own. They were present when Noah was born, a healthy 5 ½ pound baby boy. Sarah insisted Matt and Christen be the first to hold him. After that initial blessed moment, they snuggled Noah next to Sarah's cheek for the only hug she could give him.

Today, Sarah's life is richer and fuller than ever. For the first time, she has people surrounding her that are not paid caregivers. Matt and Christen have made a life-long commitment to making Sarah a part of Noah's life and reminding him what a courageous, loving birth mother he has.

MR. B GIVES BACK

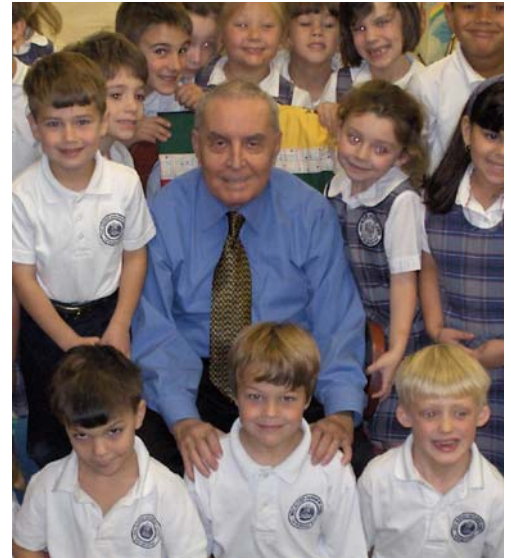
Charity

"We love Mr. B because he loves us!" a bubbly kindergartner chirped. *"He's the greatest!"*

Before Hurricane Katrina, Herman Bonnette, or Mr. B as this children call him, led an active life in St. Bernard Parish, teaching and serving on the school board. After moving to Baton Rouge and enjoying time with his son, he felt much was lost—his home, his friends, his purpose in life. It seemed that starting a new life at his age would be impossible.

Then Catholic Charities Foster Grandparent Program gave him just the opportunity he needed for a fresh start!

Working with young children at Most Blessed Sacrament School—helping students with their lessons, reading to the students and having them read to him—has brought back purpose to Herman's life. It's hard to know who is more blessed—the busy and cheerful Mr. B. who has found his place in the community again; the teachers who have his help in the classroom; or the children who love Mr. B and are committed to achieve just to make him proud!



Year in Review

2005-2006 HIGHLIGHTS



From July 1, 2005 until June 30, 2006, Catholic Charities of Baton Rouge provided help and created hope for 184,639 . . . a 450% increase over the previous year.

- 537 people volunteered 31,895 hours of service.
- 4238 households in crisis received emergency assistance.
- 60 adults received assistance to live independently through our Citizens Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities.
- 57 women with unplanned pregnancies found guidance.
- 476 people gained strength through professional counseling and 5,753 people received services for disaster-related trauma.

- 24 babies were placed in loving adoptive homes.
- 136 adult adoptees were counseled.
- 123 immigrants and refugees attended our English classes.
- 15 pregnant women were provided residential care.
- 126 low-income seniors reentered the work force.
- 57 men newly released from prison received housing and counseling as they transitioned to independent living
- 97 Foster Grandparents volunteered to work daily with special needs children in schools, homeless shelters and juvenile detention centers.
- 45 refugees found employment with our assistance.
- 137 refugees were resettled after fleeing conflict in their homeland.



- 125 families were assisted in completing and electronically filing state and federal income tax forms.
- 1,168 families received Christmas gifts from donors.

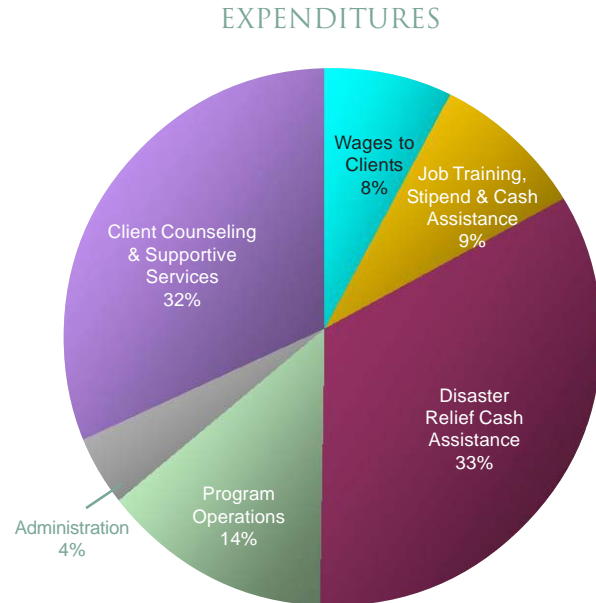
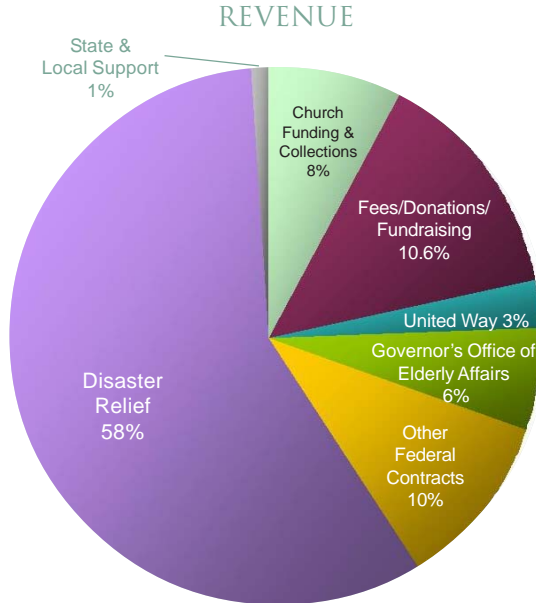


YEAR IN REVIEW

Stewardship

- Selected by Louisiana Family Recovery Corps as one of three organizations statewide to assist families developing personal recovery plans.
- Appointed to the Tangipahoa and East Baton Rouge Long-term Recovery Committees.
- Distributed an updated Emergency Preparedness and Response Manual to church parishes in the Diocese based on lessons learned from Katrina and Rita.
- Working with the new Regional Disaster Response Coordinator for the Louisiana Catholic Conference.
- Received 2006 Community Partner of the Year Award from Capital Area United Way.
- Anne and Kevin Sullivan named finalists for the 2006 Catholic Charities USA Volunteers of the Year.
- Catholic Charities Executive Director Deborah Roe received the John Barton Award for Nonprofit Leaders from the Baton Rouge Area Foundation.
- Began providing legal services for immigrants and refugees in the community and state detention centers.

2005-2006 Financial Summary



Total revenues for the year 2005 - 2006 were \$15,938,283; total expenditures were \$8,913,335.
 Income and expense variation based on difference in funding years and multi-year funding.
 Annual audit conducted by Postlethwaite & Netterville, C.P.A.



Disaster Relief and Recovery functions in a constantly changing landscape. Tens of thousands of victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita trapped are in a world of unknowns, still unable to implement recovery plans. Our Diocese, as the most impacted in the Country per capita, stands at the forefront of this incredible humanitarian effort.

Catholic Charities Disaster Relief and Recovery's wide array of programs support and help families affected by the incredible devastation across Coastal Louisiana. Each family's needs are different. As such, Catholic Charities provides services one family at a time.

Catholic Charities Family Recovery teams throughout the Diocese help survivors create and implement individualized, long-term recovery plans to move from temporary housing to self-sufficiency.

Drive Away Disaster puts qualified survivors who meet stiff criteria behind the wheel of a donated, used car, for them a

new necessity for employment and self-sufficiency.

Mental Health Counseling help survivors cope with the grief, depression and post traumatic stress to be expected after the many, many losses they have suffered.

Crisis Respite provides a reprieve from the stress and strain families experience living in cramped, temporary housing and who have lost their entire network of personal relationships.

Financial Literacy Training teaches survivor families how to build a solid financial framework for recovery. *Self Advocacy Training* helps them find their own voice and create positive change in their lives and throughout the community.

Senior Services considers the specific needs of elderly survivors, most of whom will never return to rebuild prior residences. We consider them the most vulnerable of all populations.

Our gospel vision calls Catholic Charities to go beyond recreating the poverty and social injustice existing prior to the hurricanes.

As we work for the long-term, we are mindful to give special attention to the needs of the poor and most vulnerable, provide those most affected an opportunity to participate in building a better Louisiana, create strategic partnerships to develop solidarity and build community, and advocate for social change particularly in housing and unemployment.

Catholic Charities of Baton Rouge has accepted the call to be a servant organization. The road to recovery won't be easy. We have and will continue to provide intense relief and recovery efforts for years.

1900 S. Acadian Thruway
P. O. Box 1668, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-1668
225-336-8700 • FAX 225-336-8745 • www.ccsbr.org

ADMINISTRATION

225-336-8700
Executive Director: Deborah A. Roe, MSW
Deputy Director: Todd Hamilton, MSW
Accountant: Kathy Naquin
Communication Coordinator: Carol Spruell

DISASTER RELIEF & RECOVERY

225-336-8700 • Hotline: 225-242-0348
Deputy Director: Todd Hamilton, MSW
Team Supervisor: Kerry Dupre

Family Liaisons/Case Management
Team Leaders: Sam Sammartino, Toni Wright, &
Lisa Desselles, LCSW

Adult Services
Coordinator: Louis Prejean

Crisis Respite/Counseling
Coordinator: Brenda Durham, LCSW

Housing Development/Advocate
Coordinator: David Aguillard

COUNSELING, MATERNITY & ADOPTION

225-336-8708
Director: Janice Allen, LCSW

Maternity Services
Coordinator: Samantha Clarke, LCSW

Adoption Program
Coordinator: Regina Murray, MSW

International/Special Needs Adoptions
Coordinator: Barbara Thompson, LCSW

Sanctuary for Life Maternity Home
Coordinator: Betty Duncan, M.Ed.

Counseling Locations:
Baton Rouge, Hammond, New Roads,
Sorrento & Donaldsonville

ADULT SERVICES

Senior Employment
225-346-0680
Coordinator: Claude Waite

Foster Grandparents
225-346-8712
Coordinator: Gerrie Baker, MA

MIGRATION & REFUGEE SERVICES

225-346-0660
Director: Diane Chisholm

English as a Second Language
225-242-0324
Coordinator: Melva Staub

Legal Services
Coordinator: Ken Mayeaux, JD

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

225-336-8770
Director: Daniel Palka

Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities
Coordinator: Tessie Blanchard

Human Services Consortium
Coordinator: Wendy Hellinger

Parish Social Ministry
Coordinator: Becky Reiners-Savoie

Joseph Homes/Prison Ministry
Coordinator: Linda Fjeldsjo

Emergency Assistance:

Baton Rouge/Disaster Relief
Coordinator: C.J. Roy

Tangipahoa Cares, Hammond
985-542-9896
Coordinator: Carlos Alessi



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providing help. creating hope.

P. O. Box 1668

Baton Rouge, LA 70821-1668



**Catholic
Community
Services**
DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM